Before I leave this Department of Education, may I bring to the notice of the Government that there is absolutely no justification for the Director of Public Instruction being inflicted with the management and control of other Departments. Now that the Government have made up their mind to allot a definite amount for the Uplift of the Depressed Classes, the whole Department has to be placed under the management of a full-time officer. In this connection, I may remind you, Sir, of the observations made by the Ex-Political Agent in the course of his speech, when conferring the Sanad and Badge of Rao Sahib on Mr. C. Matthai that the Darbar intend these functions hereafter (referring to the protection of the Depressed Classes) to occupy the full time of an officer, etc.

Forests and Tramways.

Sir, Tramway in our State was devised only as a means of exploiting the resources of the forests more effectively and cheaply. When you know that its usefulness has ceased to exist (as that seems to be the agreed view on all hands), there is absolutely no justification for allowing it to continue any further. The motives of the Government seem to be mysterious, and we, the people, are left in the dark as regards this matter, except the fact that the Government is determined to allow the Tramway to swallow a big sline of the Public Revenue. I am told that private bodies have offered to work the Tramway with profit to the Government. If that is a fact, I cannot understand why the Government should fight shy of the matter like this.

Medical.

Coming next to the *Medical Department*, I have to say that the General Hospital at Ernakulam is being organised and developed on too ambitious lines for the resources of the State. It is certainly one of the main duties of the Government to render medical aid to its suffering subjects. But this must have its limitations. When we compare our General Hospital with those existing in the Sister States of Mysore and Travancore, we can certainly find that our General Hospital is too big for the resources of the State. Year after year extensions and additions are being made. New sites are acquired or proposed to be acquired, and that out of all proportion to the legitimate requirements of the people. It is stated that more than half the number of people, who derive any medical relief from our State, are non-Cochinites. This is undesirable as even in medicine, charity must begin at home. This Department tries to concentrate all its energies and resources in the General Hospital itself. The other institutions are practically ignored. It is high time for the Government to make the Civil Hospital at Trichur a more useful institution. If any development is neces-

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sary in this Department, I think, Sir, that the Government would do well to think of Trichur and the mofussil parts of the State for some years to come rather than spend too much on the General Hospital at Ernakulam.

Again the policy of the Government in the purchase of medical stores for the Department seems to be far from satisfactory. It is said that we are paying more than what we should pay. I cannot understand why the Government should not try to purchase medical stores more cheaply in the open market without in any way affecting the quality of the commodities.

I wish to urge for the attention of the Government the necessity of Government support to the *indigenous systems of medicine*. It is a pity, Sir, that our State should not encourage to any large extent the study and practice of indigenous systems of medicine. It has now come to be recognised after years of neglect that the ancient systems of Ayurveda and Unani are very effective in the treatment of diseases. They are comparatively cheap also. But the encouragement given by the Government to these systems is very unsatisfactory. There are a few Ayurvedic dispensaries conducted by the Panchayats, and they are given some pecuniary help in this respect. But, if you examine closely what the Government is actually doing in this respect, you will find that the money spent on them is a sheer waste. The physician in charge of the Ayurvedic dispensaries is not allowed to prepare his own medicines, or purchase it from where, he thinks, he can get them properly prepared. He has to take the supply from a particular source, whatever be the quality of the medicine. This is a handicap to him. If his treatment does not succeed, it may be the fault of the medicine that is administered, and not the fault of the physician. The remuneration given to them is also very unsatisfactory. The result is that you cannot get qualified and efficient men, but you get only quacks. Try to change your medical policy. Nationalise it as much as possible.

As regards treatments for poisons, such as snakebites, etc., our Government is doing nothing. This culpable negligence on the part of the Government is deplorable. Some of the members of our Ruling Family are Ayurvedic Physicians of great reputation, and are also well-versed in the treatment of poisons. Our present Maharaja was doing much useful work in this direction. He has taught the science to many. One of our Princes is doing yeoman service in Trichur, and he has been repeatedly asking for Government help. In Ernakulam also there is one of our Princes doing silently but systematically very useful work in this direction. But they are all handi-

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capped for want of funds and accommodation. Their cry for help falls deaf on the ears of the Government, if it has any ears to hear. It will be a national calamity, if the Government will allow these systems to die on account of starvation.

Sanitation and Conservancy.

The next item that I wish to touch upon is *Sanitation and Conservancy*.

This, in rural areas, will take care of itself, without much effort on the part of the Government. In towns, and especially where there are Municipalities, the burden is thrown upon them. These bodies are not at present allowed to function properly. The Government is not prepared to contribute anything to their funds. Still, the Government will not allow them to utilise these funds at their disposal in the manner they think best. There is a tight hold placed on them by the Government. The growth of these institutions as self-governing bodies is prevented. These bodies, I know, have not sufficient funds at their disposal to discharge the important functions entrusted to them, the most important of them being maintenance of roads and construction of roads. The Government thinks that these bodies should tax the people, and thus meet their requirements. This policy is erroneous. The Government must give them substantial help by way of contributions or even long—term loans carrying low rate of interest. The Government should only exercise the power of mere supervision. Take for instance the condition of Ernakulam roads and drainage. The state of affairs is far from satisfactory. When the roads were handed over to the Municipality, the Government had promised to give a substantial amount for their maintenance every year. For a few years, the promise was kept up. But, gradually, this policy underwent a change, until at last the Municipality is now told that they should not expect any help from the Government. This is cruel.

Public Works.

It is high time, Sir, that the Department sees that more money is spent for communications, original and maintenance, than for buildings generally. There are many places in the State, where means of communications are urgently needed. In many of the small islands, such as Panambukad, Mulavukad, Kothad, etc., there are no roads at all. The inhabitants of those places derive no benefit worth the name for the cess they pay. We want bridges very badly in many places. Government have to think of that.

Again for some years to come, the Public Works Department will devote its attention to the irrigation problem of the whole State. Much has to be done in this direction. We

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